

AS

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 97-258-C - ORDER NO. 97-711  
AUGUST 18, 1997

*[Handwritten signature]*

IN RE: Request of United Telephone Company of ) ORDER  
the Carolinas for Approval of Revised )  
Depreciation Rates for its Digital )  
Electronic Central Office Switching and )  
Aerial Cable-Metallic Plant Accounts. )

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Application of United Telephone Company of the Carolinas (United or the Company) for revised depreciation rates for its digital electronic central office switching and aerial cable-metallic plant accounts.

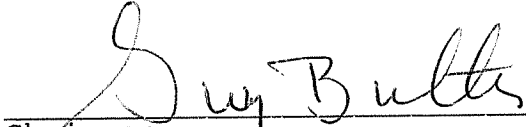
By letter of the Commission's Executive Director, the Company was ordered to publish a Notice, one time, in a newspaper of general circulation outlining the Company's proposals, and informing the public of the manner and time in which to participate in any proceedings before the Commission. The Company furnished an affidavit showing that it had complied with the directions of the Commission's Executive Director. No protests or Petitions to Intervene were filed.

We will therefore proceed to rule on the Company's requests. We note that the Company requests that the new rates, if granted, be deemed effective January 1, 1997. Further, United is not

seeking any increase in rates as the result of this filing.

We believe that the proposed rates should be approved as filed, since they are within the reasonable range of depreciation rates that we have approved for the accounts of various local exchange carriers in the past. The rates shall be deemed to be effective January 1, 1997. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)